

Old Mansion on Highway #40

Landmark since 1877.

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One of the landmarks of this part of the State was completely destroyed by fire and bulldozers recently, to make way for a section of Highway #40.

The old Lee mansion, built by W^m. Elenton Moulton, a mile East of Kettley in 1877 was razed in August. The big fourteen room house was famous for its stout construction, its size and its warmth of hospitality.

Mr. & Mrs. Fay Lee, owners of 4,000 acres of land around the home and last occupants of the house went to Salt Lake City to escape the sight of the destruction. The interior was burned by the help of kerosene and a few hours later bulldozers were able to knock down the noble, old sandstone walls. The rubble was hauled away.

The old house has tremendous history. W^m. Elenton Moulton was a Mormon immigrant from England, and he had the King Midas touch, prospering in all that he did. He built the house of sandstone hauled from Lake Creek Canyon, east of Heber, and he built well. Two front bedrooms for his wives Mary and Mary Ann were separated

by a big, beautiful parlor, and kitchen and dining room on the main floor. Two... roads leading to the upper story where there were many bedrooms and storage rooms. Two bathrooms, a huge pantry which was almost a refrigerator, three full rooms and a vegetable cellar were in the basement. Some floors were of sandstone and some of cedar one and one-half inch thick.

Mr. Moulton set up a complete spread, hay and grain to feed animals to supply meat, milk, cheese and butter for the boomtown of Park City. There was a two story milk house with a pipeline leading to the cold pantry in the house and another pipeline leading to the calf shed to take skim milk for their feed. A big slaughter house an ice house and a second well, right in the barn. The layout was complete beyond imagination for those days. Many young men and women had employment there through the years.

The house became so famous that the stagecoach line from Hiber to Park City and Salt Lake, built a sideroad on the hill so that travelers could view it better.

Orson H. Lee was the brother of Moulton's first wife Mary and the father of Fay Lee, came as a youth to work there. After Mr. Moulton's death Orson Lee purchased the ranch from his sister. Several of his sons filed on surrounding government land until the present 4,000 acres.

Mr. Moulton's business in Park City was fabulous. He carried the produce in a spring wagon or sleigh, going over the summit and through Deer Valley. Housewives came out to meet him with containers and he used a label for the milk, and take orders for the next day. He supplied the butcher shops and all the large boarding houses (for miners) in Park City with several kinds of meats and milk, butter, cheese & eggs.

On one occasion the doughty merchant found the road impassable and transferred his produce to an ore car at the mouth of the drain tunnel and transported it underground to the Daily West shaft. It was hauled through and into Park City at Daily Judge tunnel and loaded on a dray for delivery.

When the Lee sons grew up and married they all lived in the big house. At one time there were four families each with separate apartments.